Office of the Engineer-in-Chief,

General Post Office, London,

26 May 1893.

My dear Carhart

I am duly in receipt of your letter of the 13th inst, and I much appreciate the invitation you extend to me to prepare a paper for the World's Electrical Congress. I accept it with

with pleasure, and propose
to write for you a paper
on "Signalling through
space by means of
electromagnetic vibrations".

With kindest regards,

Yours very truly

W. H. Preece

Prof. A. S. Cushman.

DSI

G.P.O.
London
7 June 1894

My dear Canhard.

I thank you very much for your letter and the copy of the photograph of the "Chamber of Delegates". The photograph is an excellent one and it shall be framed and hung at once -

Yours Sincerely

H. G. Wells

PENRHOS,
CARNARVON.

January 4th, 1913.

My dear Carhart,

I duly received your kind letter of Dec. 17th. I have been wondering where you had got to, for I have not heard of you for some time. I should have sent the enclosed Xmas card if I had had your address.

Lord Kelvin was a great loss to us and I felt his departure very severely, for we were on most intimate terms.

I have been on the sick list now for two years, and have had a terrific fight, but I am coming out a winner. My doctor gives me an extremely favourable report. I am just entering my 80th year, and I must be thankful for so long a life after such strenuous work. I wish I could come and pay you a visit. Distance alone prevents me, for my doctor orders me to go to the

Mediteranean to get sunshine and warmth, which I am sure I should more thoroughly appreciate in California, but the distance at present is too great for me to think of attempting it.

Yours sincerely,

Henry S. Cathcart, Esq.

DSI

May 8 - 97

My dear Luke

Welcome back.

I shall be very glad to see you. I am very sorry you have a cold. I wanted you to come down with me today to

help me to experiment
with Marconi's ap-
paratus in South
Wales. I have
had many enquiries
for you and already
two offers of Director-
ships!

Hope to see you
on the 19th —

We are all fit
here

I remain yours

W. H. Preece

P. V. Luke Esq

Gothic Lodge,
Wimbledon Common.

Dec 21. 95

My dear Thompson

Very sorry

I was surprised that I

had not received an

acknowledgment of the

letter. I do not know

where to address Blanche

I think our P.O.

would have found

him.

Will you be

kind enough to

send it to him

as an explanation

of my absence.

They must have

thought me discourteous.

I am still badly

laid up at home

and fear I shall

not be right for some

weeks

Sincerely yours

H. H. [illegible]

Chief Electrician at the Post Office

W. H. Preece

K

Feby 14. 83

My dear Ansell

I hope you have arranged for the Fault Specimens to be sent to Great George St tomorrow for me

Yrs sincerely
W. H. Preece

Preece
£6

8

Chief Electrician
at the Post Office

DSI

Penrhos
Carnarvon
Aug 31. 97

My dear Lake

You should have signed the Standard letter in full. It is a very good idea indeed. The best man to work it out for you is Parker of Wolverhampton. You

should go down and
see him. His works
are worth a visit.
I have written him.
I am sorry you cannot
come down here while
I am here.

Sincerely yours

[illegible] Wheeler

P. V. Lukaly CIE

DSI

Aug 18-97

My dear Luke

Are you in London & can you come and see me? I have something for you in the way of a

Lord Devonshire.

I am here tomorrow until 1pm and on Friday all day

Sincerely yours

W. H. Preece

P. V. Luke Esq

DSI

Aug 21. 97

My dear Luke

There is no hurry. I want you when you come up to see Marconi. They want a Technical Director on the Board of the "Wireless

Ellsworth Co" and I
have suggested you
I think it would suit
your bit would
bring us together.
They should gratify
you - Curra

will tell you Marconi
address. I do not
know it. I shall be
understand myself
next week and then
go to Wales. I hope
you will come down
and see us there

shall be there until

the end of September

Sincerely yours

W. H. Preece

DSI

Wireless Telegraphy. 5 A.ll.s. addressed to P.V. Luke C.I.E., by W.H. Preece and G. Marconi, 1897. ($18.20) £6/10/-
Four of the letters are from Preece who discovered the thermionic valve, & as Engineer to the Post Office secured permission for Marconi to carry out his experiments under its auspices. One is from Marconi. All are concerned with appointing Luke "Technical Director of the Wireless Telegraph Co."

E. MATHEWS - 61

SCIENCE. PREECE (SIR W.H.) 1834-1913. Electrical Engineer. Early pioneer of Wireless Telegraphy. 1 p. 8vo. Post Office, 1883, to Ansell regarding the fault speciment.

Myers-72

£6.00

5854 **PREECE (Sir William Henry,** F.R.S., *electrical engineer,* 1834-1913) A.L.S. (W. H. PREECE), Gothic Lodge, Wimbledon Common, Dec. 21. 97, to 'My dear [Prof. Silvanus P.] Thompson,' 10*s* 6*d*

Having reference to a miscarried letter.

LONDON SOTHERAN

52

fectionnements au moyen desquels il est réussi, à ce qu'il paraît, à transmettre les signaux à certaines staions désignées et non à d'autres. On me dit que la nouvelle a été donnée par une lettre de Fleeming publiée par le *Times*.' . . .

5872 —— A.L.S. (AUGUSTE RIGHI), address as above, undated, to the same, 1½ pages 8vo., £1, 5*s*

. . . ' Cette prétendue syntonisation est précisement ce que j'avais imaginé ; c'est l'idée de Mr. Blondel (Comptes Rendus du 21 mai 1900 page 1383), avec cette petite difference, que l'on emploie des rélais au lieu qu'un [*sic*] téléphone

Mr. P. V. Luke to Miss M. Clifford.

ST. MARY ABBOT'S CHURCH, Kensington, was gay with the Easter decorations of daffodils and spring flowers on Saturday, April 5th, when Miss Mabel Clifford, youngest daughter of Mr. Frederick Clifford, K.C., was married to Mr. Paget Vyvyan Luke, C.I.E., late of the Indian Telegraph Department. The bride was given away by her father, and her wedding dress was of white satin embroidered with silver and Venetian point lace. The long train was of white brocaded satin, and the tulle veil was fastened to the hair with a coronet of orange blossoms. She wore a diamond necklace and a diamond star, the latter the gift of the bridegroom. Six little bridesmaids attended the bride, dressed alike in frocks of pale blue muslin, with cream fichus and large hats of sunburnt straw, blue roses, and ribbon. They carried bouquets of pink roses, and wore gold brooches of hearts intertwined in turquoise and pearl, the gifts of the bridegroom. All the bridesmaids were nieces of the bride, and their names were Miss Violet, Miss Marjorie, and Miss Monica Sandberg, Miss Dulcibella and Miss Margaret Clifford, and Miss Irene Clifford. The service was conducted by the Rev. Harry Clifford (brother of the bride), assisted by the Rev. F. Lloyd Jones (brother-in-law of the bridegroom), and was fully choral. Mr. Luke was attended by Mr. H. A. Kirk as best man. As the bridal pair left the church, to the sound of Mendelssohn's "Wedding March," their path was strewn with primroses and violets by two baby girls—the Misses Rosalind and Barbara Sandberg—wearing frocks of soft white silk with pale blue sashes and shoes. After the wedding a reception was held at 24, Collingham Gardens, the residence of the bride's father, at which some sixty guests viewed the wedding presents. These numbered nearly 200, and included a silver-mounted claret jug from Earl Roberts, six silver flower vases from Mr. Page, K.C., silver entrée dishes from Sir Albert and Lady Cappel, cheques, furniture, and pictures from the bride's father, and silver soup ladles from Sir John and Lady Denison Pender. The honeymoon is to be spent on the Continent, and the bride's travelling dress was of dark blue with Eastern embroidery.

DSI

Written by P.B. Luke.
A week before he died
on Dec. 31st 1928.

CHRISTMAS IN KABUL.

A Recollection of 50 Years Ago.

(By a Telegraph Officer.)

Some fifty years ago (1879 to be exact) it was my lot to spend Christmas in Kabul.

After the first Afghan campaign in 1879, which ended with the treaty of Gundamak in May that year, the telegraph line from Peshawar was dismantled as far back as Lundi Rotal. When the second campaign was started, after the murder of Cavagnari and his staff, the reconstruction of the line to Kabul was at once ordered, and commenced in October. It was easier going than in the first campaign, as more was known about the country, and the work required, and materials available; and telegraphic communication between India and Kabul was established by the middle of November.

Meanwhile Sir Fred Roberts had reached Kabul via the Kurram Valley, meted out condign punishment to the participators in the murder, and established his garrison in Sherpur for winter quarters. Sherpur, an old cantonment about a mile outside the city of Kabul, was a huge open space, about 4½ miles round, with no feet high walls on two sides, an unfinished wall, of 6 feet or so in places, on another, and a range of hills called the Bimaru Heights on the fourth side. All too large a site for safe defence by the small force at Sir Fred Roberts' disposal in case of a siege.

Hostile Tribes.

Things began to get lively early in December. Hostile tribes were reported to be gathering in all directions with a view to an attack on Sherpur. On December 10th, a grand review of all the troops was held on a plain north of Sherpur, and after the review General Baker with one brigade, and General Macpherson with another, moved out to find and disperse the enemy.

On the 11th, four squadrons of Lancers went out to join a battery of Horse Artillery which had been left in Chordeh Valley by General Macpherson. They were attacked by the enemy, who had collected there in great numbers, and the artillery got into bad ground. The Lancers charged to save the guns and lost heavily, three officers killed and one wounded, and the guns had to be abandoned. They were afterwards re-taken and brought into Sherpur by a small force got together by Colonel Macgregor of the Staff and Colonel Deane. On this occasion, there were instances of great personal bravery, and Padre Adams was awarded a V.C. for the part he played.

How the V.C. Was Won.

From then on there was a time of great anxiety for the garrison. The tribes were collecting all round in great numbers, and a grand night attack on Sherpur was expected at any time. The two Brigades, under Generals Macpherson and Baker, were actively engaged in various operations in the immediate vicinity all round, with some loss of officers and men.

On one occasion an opportunity occurred of seeing through a telescope a man win the V.C. The hill above Deh Afghan, a village just outside Sherpur, which was crowded with the enemy was ordered to be stormed after the village had been well shelled by two batteries of artillery. Looking through a large telescope the details of the affair could be closely watched. The summit of the hill was crowned by a sungah (stone shelter), held by a handful of Ghazis—fanatics sworn to conquer or die—who think nothing of death provided they can kill an infidel. Nearly up to the top there was a fair amount of cover for the assaulting party, but the last yards were open ground and had to be rushed in face of fire. A corporal of a Highland regiment dashed out from his cover and a Ghazi from the sungah rushed to meet him, and they both rolled down the hill; but the corporal survived, and got his V.C. His dash was followed by his comrades, and all was over with the handful of Ghazis in a few minutes, and the hill was taken.

Siege of Sherpur.

The enemy, however, continued to come on in increasing numbers and recaptured that hill and took two of our guns, and the troops had to retire from all points round about into Sherpur cantonments. The enemy then re-occupied all positions gained by us, and the siege really began on December 14th. From this date till relieved by General Gough's Brigade advancing through the Khyber on the 24th, we were closely besieged.

Curiously enough the telegraph line to India remained uncut during the 14th and 15th, though thousands of the tribesmen must have passed under it. This enabled Sir Fred Roberts to make all his arrangements, telegraphic communication with India not being interrupted till December 16th.

Many of the tribesmen enjoyed themselves by working their will on the city of Kabul, a dense conglomeration of mud and stone houses—from which the Governor, General Hills, had been withdrawn before the siege began.

During the ten days of the siege the telegraph officials were kept busy opening telegraph offices at different parts of cantonments, helping with wires, entanglements, and so on. Various rumours of large bodies of men coming from Kughmar were current, and some half-hearted attacks were made.

On December 19th snow fell, and the enemy occupied the surrounding villages in great force, and there was heavy firing, with a good many casualties on our side. All firing always used to cease about 5 p.m., when the enemy left off for meals.

A General Assault.

Sunday, the 21st, there was a church parade, which was very impressive. Persistent rumours of a grand general assault on the 23rd were rife, and on the 22nd the 12th Bengal Cavalry went out to try to meet General Gough's relieving force at Jataband. They got through, but suffered considerable loss.

Sure enough, according to expectation, on December 23rd a fire was lighted on Asmai Peak, and at 6 a.m. a general attack on our position commenced all round—the chief assault being on the Bimaru side. The camp telegraph offices we found most useful. The attack continued all the morning, the enemy hiding behind walls and in villages, but not venturing into the open. Very heavy firing on our side all day, but apparently without much effect. After a half-hearted final attack the enemy was beaten off on all sides by noon.

In the afternoon our cavalry went out and pursued the retreating tribesmen. Our casualties were small, though the enemy's loss was said to be heavy.

Christmas Eve.

On the 24th, General Gough's Brigade, which came from India through the Khyber Pass, marched in. The enemy had all dispersed during the night, presumably in most cases only too pleased to go to their homes, for the tribesmen were entirely dependent for their commissariat on what each man carried with him. When the few pounds of meal carried on their person were exhausted they had to go hungry till they got home again.

General Hills returned the same day to the city to take up his magisterial duties, from which he was driven when the tribesmen looted the place. It was a wonderful sight. The snow was falling hard as we rode through the despoiled bazaars. Every part of the once busy city had been thoroughly "gone through" by the raiders, with the exception of the Kizilbash quarter, known as Chandaul, which for some reason had escaped.

A heavy fall of snow in the night heralded a real Christmas morning, and all thoughts were turned to getting together the best sort of dinner possible to celebrate the occasion. Our party of four fortunately included a "pussyfoot," who did not consume his ration of alcohol. This did not prevent him drawing his daily "tot" of rum with the accumulated result of a bottle-full for this great occasion.

Comparisons.

So ended the Siege of Sherpur, and it only remained to repair the telegraph line which had been totally destroyed for some 40 miles. This was satisfactorily accomplished in due course, and the work was not without interest, for the fear of what their punishment might be was strong upon the villagers, and when their villages were searched for wire and poles they were only too willing to render all assistance in their power.

Compare now the roughly described events which happened at Kabul Christmas time just fifty years ago with what is happening in 1928. A fine new Residency has been built about two miles west of Sherpur and occupied by our Ambassador to the Afghan Court. But—this Sunday before Christmas Day the women and children attached to the Residency have had to be removed by airplanes to India to ensure their safety!

How much progress towards civilised conditions of life has been made during these fifty years by the real people of Afghanistan such as beseiged Sherpur in 1879!

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EARLY D ASTERS TO AU RALIA.

Woodfull And Richardson Back In Pavilion For 15 Runs.

A GOO RECOVERY.

Fifty-eight Thou l People See Kippax Make His Best Test Score.

Australia's opening pair, Richardson and Woodfull, "the sticker," out for 15 runs! Such was the sensational news contained in the early cabl f Melbourne to-day.

It was the start of Test match, between England and Australia, and the l of two "star" batsmen was indeed salve to Chapma s men for the loss of the toss.

Neither Woodfull ardson had been comfortable against Larwood and T d to the Notts bowler fell the honour of taking the fir t in the match, that of Richardson, whom he beat by ace, with only five runs on the board. Duckworth took catch at the wicket.

Then, at 15, Woodf an extraordinary lapse, poking at a rising ball from Ta , and being easily caught in the gully

aught by Jardine at 57, and in the 90 lia had only scored 63 runs.

ever, pulled the side round later, and the interval Larwood was hit for 29 ssive fours by Kippax and a huge pull ippax passed his half-century for his s.

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THE SCOREBOARD.

AUSTRALIA.—1st Inns.

W. M. Woodfull, c Jardine, b Tate ...	7
V. Y. Richardson, c Duckworth, b Larwood . .	3
H. L. Hendry, c Jardine, b Larwood.	23
A. F. Kippax, not out	64
J. Ryder, not out	44
Extras	6
Total (for 3 wkts)	147

To bat: C. V. Grimmett, R. Oxenham, D. Bradman, E. A'Beckett, W. A. Oldfield, and D. Blackie.

ENGLAND.—A. P. F. Chapman, J. C. White, D. R. Jardine, Hobbs, Sutcliffe, Hammond, Hendren, Tate, Larwood, Geary, and Duckworth.

FALL OF WICKETS.
AUSTRALIA.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1st inns. .	5	15	57							

Chapman brought Tate and Larwood back again. Hammond's analysis was 4—2—11—0, and Geary's 8—1—22—0. The England shock bowlers were at once successful, for off the third ball of Larwood's first over Jardine, in the gully, brought off a brilliant catch high up with the right hand to send Hendry back, 57—3—23.

Luck for Ryder and Kippax.

Hendry had been batting 75 minutes, but had never settled down or displayed his real form. The Australian captain, who filled the vacancy, had quite an ovation on walking to the wicket, but he was almost out to the first ball he received from Larwood. Ryder only just placed it a little wide of Jardine in the gully. In the same over Kippax made his first mistake, having a very lucky escape. In attempting to hit the fast bowler, he "skied" the ball and Tate, after circling round, in a desperate attempt just failed to get under it.

Kippax seemed unsettled by his escape, and subsequently had a very poor time in facing Tate, while Ryder was in trouble with Larwood. The pair hung on to the lunch interval, which was taken with the score at 63 for three wickets, Kippax being not out 27 and Ryder not out 2.

It had been a good morning's work for England. After losing the toss on such a good wicket they could hardly have hoped to be in such a fine position by lunch time.

The bowling of Tate and Larwood was magnificent. Each man bowled with great fire and determination, and none of the Australian batsmen had ever looked safe when facing them. In addition, the fielding was good, and, with a little luck, England would have had more wickets. As it was, it had taken Australia an hour and a half to score 63 runs, and in so doing they had lost three of their best bats.

Enormous Crowd.

Fifty-eight thousand people were present after lunch.

One curious feature of the picture was provided by the hundreds of coats which schoolboys had hung on the railings in order to provide themselves with awnings.

When the game was resumed Tate and Larwood took up the bowling. It was evidently the intention of the Australians to knock Larwood off his length, for Kippax at once began to hit the Notts bowler with considerable freedom. He took his score from 30 to 42 with three successive boundaries off Larwood, and Ryder, who was not so comfortable with the bowling, followed the lead set by his partner by pulling Larwood over the square leg boundary for six.

All this occurred during the first two overs from the Notts man, who had 29 runs hit off his first dozen deliveries. The rate of scoring, 36 in 15 minutes, after lunch presented a great contrast to what had gone before.

The 100 appeared amid long-continued cheers at the end of an hour and 50 minutes' batting, but when White came on to relieve Larwood, at 103, the pace of the run-getting slackened considerably. Larwood's analysis when he was rested was 11—1—39—2.

Kippax's 50 was the next item of note, and that too came in for prolonged cheers when the New South Wales batsman had been at the wicket an hour and 25 minutes. After that Ryder took on the rôle of run-getter. He drove both bowlers to the boundary, jumping out to White on several occasions and hitting with power.

Kippax's Best Test Score.

Kippax, who was now playing well, had never played an innings of more than 42 in a Test match until to-day. He was far more confident now than he had been before lunch, and his vigour and the variety of his strokes had their effect upon the English bowling.

The displacement of Tate by Geary at 125 was all to the good, as Geary and White made a much steadier combination.

At this point the Somerset amateur's analysis was 9—4—10—0. A moment or two later the attendants brought out on to the field liquid refreshers, and there was a brief stoppage. The scoring had now slackened, and at the end of two and a half hours only 129 runs were on the board.

Kippax and Ryder were making a very fine recovery from a disappointing start, and now that they had settled down both men were playing excellent cricket.

Crowd Cleared Off Turf.

So great was the crowd now that hundreds of people jumped over the railings and seated themselves on the turf. This, however, is not allowed at Melbourne, and a further delay of five minutes occurred while the umpires were clearing the crowd off the turf.

There were further indications that the railings were likely to be scaled and the police patrolled the ground at the most likely points in order to prevent intrusions on the playing area.

The crowd was now an enormous one, and in all probability the numbers will be found to exceed 60,000, thus beating Sydney's recent record of 58,000.

Further details received while this edition is in the press will be found on page 13.

DS